

retirement of Lieutenant General Michael D. Maples, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-530. A communication from the Director, Defense Procurement, Acquisition Policy, and Strategic Sourcing, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Responsible Prospective Contractors" (RIN0750-AG20) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 16, 2009; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-531. A communication from the Director, Defense Procurement, Acquisition Policy, and Strategic Sourcing, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; List of Firms Owned or Controlled by the Government of a Terrorist Country" (RIN0750-AG22) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 16, 2009; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-532. A communication from the Director, Defense Procurement, Acquisition Policy, and Strategic Sourcing, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; DoD Law of War Program" (RIN0750-AF82) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 16, 2009; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-533. A communication from the Director, Defense Procurement, Acquisition Policy, and Strategic Sourcing, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Removal of North Korea from the List of Terrorist Countries" (RIN0750-AG18) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 16, 2009; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-534. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Strategies for the Commercialization and Deployment of Greenhouse Gas Intensity Reducing Technologies and Practices"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-535. A communication from the Assistant Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "National Water Quality Inventory: Report to Congress, 2004 Reporting Cycle"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-536. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Priorities List, Final Rule" (RIN2050-AD75) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 16, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-537. A communication from the Deputy Under Secretary for International Affairs, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Progress in Implementing Capacity-Building Provisions under the Labor Chapter of the Dominican Republic—Central America—United States Free Trade Agreement"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-538. A communication from the Director, Defense Procurement, Acquisition Policy, and Strategic Sourcing, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; U.S.-International Atomic Energy Agency Additional Protocol" (RIN0750-AF98) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on

January 16, 2009; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-539. A communication from the Secretary of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Citizens' Report: FY 2008 Summary of Performance and Financial Results"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-540. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Investment Advice—Participants and Beneficiaries" (RIN1210-AB13) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 16, 2009; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-541. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Civil Penalties Under ERISA Section 502(c)(4)" (RIN1210-AB24) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 16, 2009; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-542. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Interpretive Bulletin Relating to Exercise of Shareholder Rights" (RIN1210-AB28) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 16, 2009; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-543. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Interpretive Bulletin Relating to Investing in Economically Targeted Investments" (RIN1210-AB29) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 16, 2009; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-544. A communication from the Director, Office of Counternarcotics Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security and the Deputy Associate Attorney General, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Southwest Border Counternarcotics Strategy due to Congress by April 2009; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-545. A communication from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Administration's compliance with the Sunshine Act during calendar year 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-546. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General for Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report relative to the Department's competitive sourcing efforts during fiscal year 2008; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mrs. BOXER for the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

*Lisa Perez Jackson, of New Jersey, to be Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

*Nancy Helen Sutley, of California, to be a Member of the Council on Environmental Quality.

By Mr. BAUCUS for the Committee on Finance.

*Timothy F. Geithner, of New York, to be Secretary of the Treasury.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. CHAMBLISS (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COBURN, and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. 296. A bill to promote freedom, fairness, and economic opportunity by repealing the income tax and other taxes, abolishing the Internal Revenue Service, and enacting a national sales tax to be administered primarily by the States; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. NELSON of Florida:

S. 297. A bill to amend the Act entitled "An Act authorizing associations of producers of aquatic products" to include persons engaged in the fishery industry as charter boats or recreational fishermen, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. ISAKSON (for himself, Mr. CONRAD, and Mr. CHAMBLISS):

S. 298. A bill to establish a Financial Markets Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SPECTER:

S. 299. A bill to establish a pilot program in certain United States district courts to encourage enhancement of expertise in patent cases among district judges; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GREGG:

S. 300. A bill to enable the Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information of the Department of Commerce to resume timely processing and distribution of TV converter box coupons by increasing its fiscal authority to make payments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. KOHL, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 301. A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to provide for transparency in the relationship between physicians and manufacturers of drugs, devices, biologicals, or medical supplies for which payment is made under Medicare, Medicaid, or SCHIP; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mrs. HUTCHISON):

S. 302. A bill to authorize the International Boundary and Water Commission to reimburse State and local governments for expenses incurred by such governments in designing, constructing, and rehabilitating the Lower Rio Grande Valley Flood Control Project; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. VOINOVICH (for himself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Mr. CARPER):

S. 303. A bill to reauthorize and improve the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. DORGAN:

S. 304. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to stimulate business investment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. VITTER):

S. 305. A bill to amend title IV of the Public Health Service Act to create a National Childhood Brain Tumor Prevention Network to provide grants and coordinate research with respect to the causes of and risk factors associated with childhood brain tumors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. NELSON of Nebraska (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. BROWN, Mr. JOHANNIS, and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 306. A bill to promote biogas production, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 307. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide flexibility in the manner in which beds are counted for purposes of determining whether a hospital may be designated as a critical access hospital under the Medicare program and to exempt from the critical access hospital inpatient bed limitation the number of beds provided for certain veterans; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BAUCUS (for himself, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 308. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to improve economic opportunity and development in rural States through highway investment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BAUCUS (for himself, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. CONRAD):

S. 309. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to improve highway transportation in the United States, including rural and metropolitan areas; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mrs. BOXER:

S. 310. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to ensure that safety net family planning centers are eligible for assistance under the drug discount program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. BOXER:

S. 311. A bill to prohibit the application of certain restrictive eligibility requirements to foreign nongovernmental organizations with respect to the provision of assistance under part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. ENSIGN):

S. 312. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a refundable credit against income tax for the purchase of a principal residence by a first-time homebuyer; to the Committee on Finance.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 45

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 45, a bill to improve patient access to health care services and provide improved medical care by reducing the excessive burden the liability system places on the health care delivery system.

S. 85

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. MARTINEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 85, a bill to amend title X of the

Public Health Service Act to prohibit family planning grants from being awarded to any entity that performs abortions.

S. 96

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. MARTINEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 96, a bill to prohibit certain abortion-related discrimination in governmental activities.

S. 98

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. MARTINEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 98, a bill to impose admitting privilege requirements with respect to physicians who perform abortions.

S. 138

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 138, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal alternative minimum tax limitations on private activity bond interest, and for other purposes.

S. 144

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 144, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to remove cell phones from listed property under section 280F.

S. 167

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 167, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to enhance the COPS ON THE BEAT grant program, and for other purposes.

S. 169

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 169, a bill to provide for a biennial budget process and a biennial appropriations process and to enhance oversight and the performance of the Federal Government.

S. 181

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. KAUFMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 181, a bill to amend title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, and to modify the operation of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, to clarify that a discriminatory compensation decision or other practice that is unlawful under such Acts occurs each time compensation is paid pursuant to the discriminatory compensation decision or other practice, and for other purposes.

S. 250

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 250, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a

higher education opportunity credit in place of existing education tax incentives.

S. 252

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 252, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to enhance the capacity of the Department of Veterans Affairs to recruit and retain nurses and other critical health-care professionals, to improve the provision of health care for veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 253

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. MARTINEZ) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 253, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the application of the homebuyer credit, and for other purposes.

S. 271

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 271, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide incentives to accelerate the production and adoption of plug-in electric vehicles and related component parts.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. KOHL, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 301. A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to provide for transparency in the relationship between physicians and manufacturers of drugs, devices, biologicals, or medical supplies for which payment is made under Medicare, Medicaid, or SCHIP; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise to introduce a bill today. Over the past several years, I have worked to establish greater transparency in the financial relationships and financial disclosure requirements between physicians and manufacturers of drugs, of biologics, and medical devices.

In the last Congress, the 110th, Senator HERB KOHL of Wisconsin and I introduced what is entitled the Physician Payments Sunshine Act, which is intended to bring some much-needed transparency to these relationships between physicians and manufacturers.

To explain why this bill is so important, let me point to a number of investigations I have conducted in the depth and scope of these relationships between physicians on the one hand, and manufacturers of drugs, biologics, and medical devices on the other hand.

My findings to date are troubling and reveal significant undisclosed financial ties between physicians and industry. Some examples: These relationships, at times, resulted in annual incomes of over \$1 million to individual physicians from just one company.